

**CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION**

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*Established in 1938*

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**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION  
(Public Resources Code section 21108)**

File Ref: Permit 9305; A2852  
SCH#: 2013069020  
Item: 38

Title: Benton Resources Notice and Plan of Operations Halloran Springs Exploration Drilling Project

Proponent: Robert G. Wetzel

Location: Approximately 633 acres of State fee-owned school land (State Parcel Number 202-017; Assessor's Parcel Number 0570-051-24), located within Section 16, T15N, R10E, SBM, approximately 3 miles northwest of Interstate 15 Halloran Springs Exit, San Bernardino County.

Description: To drill a total of six holes. Five holes will be drilled into the State parcel from the adjacent Bureau of Land Management land. Under the existing prospecting permit, one hole had already been drilled directly on the State parcel under Commission's jurisdiction and was plugged to its surface. The State Lands Commission action is an extension of Mineral Prospecting Permit No. 9305 to allow drilling to determine the commercial viability of gold or silver on State School Lands through February 28, 2022.

This is to advise that the California State Lands Commission, as  Lead Agency  Responsible Agency, has approved the above, described project on February 23, 2021, and has made the following determinations regarding the project.

- 1) The project  will  will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2) An Environmental Assessment (EA)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared by a federal agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and is being used in the place of a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the provisions of CEQA (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15221).
- 3) Mitigation measures  were  were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
- 4) A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan  was or  was not adopted for this project.
- 5) A Statement of Overriding Considerations  was  was not adopted for the project.
- 6) Findings  were  were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

The lead federal agency for the project, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), prepared two separate EA/FONSIs and adopted on May 23, 2013 and August 13, 2010. The California State Lands Commission has considered the EA/FONSIs as prepared for this project by BLM. At this time, the Commission's offices are closed to the public due to public health and safety concerns regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Please contact Commission staff for the most up-to-date information on the availability of the EA/FONSI and the record of project approval.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AND POSTING BY THE  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH**

ERIC GILLIES, Assistant Chief  
Environmental Planning and Management Division

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